

## Some botanical highlights in January in the Garden

*The numbers refer to the gardens as shown on your map.*

The days may be short and the sky overcast but plants are still flowering here in Ventnor. The earliest spring flowers are emerging whilst other plants, such as the shrubby *Salvias* haven't stopped flowering despite the cold. The annual New Year's Day flower count by the Curator, Chris Kidd, revealed 207 plants in flower in the Garden. This was a higher count than last year although not as high as 2016.



The Botanic Garden flowering in January

**Left:** The Palm Garden with Brugmansia & Salvias.

**Right:** Salvias still flowering in the Long Border.

In the **Herb & Medicinal Garden (2)**, *Fuchsia boliviana* (left below) is flowering alongside the Plantation Café wall whilst the unusual rose, *Rosa x odorata* Bengal Crimson (right below), growing along the pergola and originally from Chelsea Physic Garden, manages to produce a few flowers almost throughout the year.



On the **South African Terrace (3)** there is a fine show of shrubby yellow daisy bushes of the genus *Euryops*. One of the more unusual of these, flowering just below the car park, is *Euryops virgineus* (left below). Also in South African garden, bushes of **African Hemp, *Sparmannia africana*** (right below) are producing their first flowers. These plants were cut back hard by the 'Beast from the East' in March of last year but are now re-growing well.



As you enter the **Australian Garden (4)**, you will see a bottlebrush, *Callistemon citrinus splendens* (left below) flowering to your right. The Acacia trees are flowering particularly early this year. You will probably have noticed Mimosas, *Acacia dealbata* (right below) in flower across the Island. This is one of several species grown in the Garden.



There are also several trees of *Acacia baileyana* (left above) in the Australian Garden and elsewhere, with glaucous bipinnate leaves. *Acacia adunca* (right above) is distinctive because of its long, thin 'leaves'.

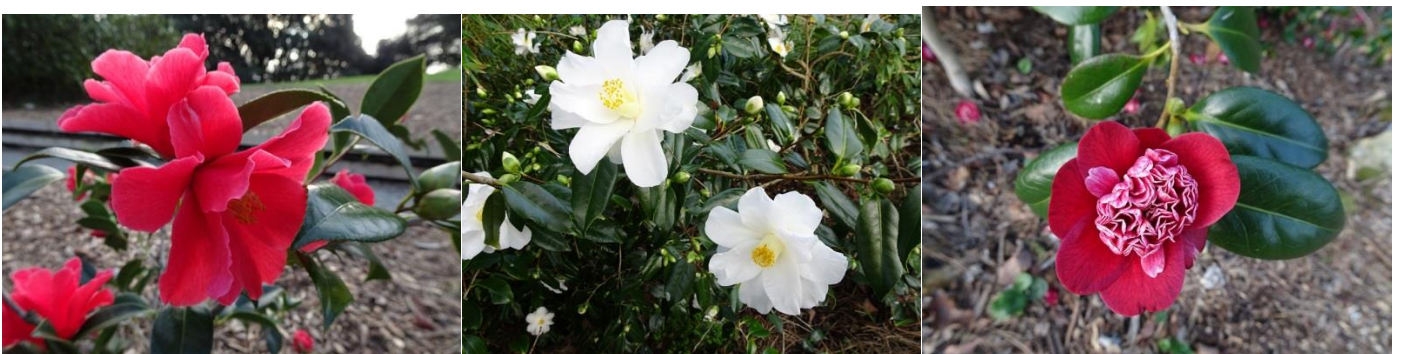
In the flowerbed alongside the **Fish Pond** are several bushes of Loquat, *Eriobotrya japonica* (left below) with large, shiny evergreen leaves. One of these is producing clusters of scented white flowers. Another bush with fragrant flowers, Wintersweet, *Chimonanthus fragrans* (right below) can be seen flowering in the **Long Border (13)**.



Another plant in flower in the Long Border at the moment is the Red Cestrum, *Cestrum fasciculatum newellii* (left below). You will also notice the prolific displays of a white-flowered Periwinkle, *Vinca difformis* (right below).



Finally, make a detour to the **Oriental Garden (12)** where you will find a host of Camellias in bloom. These include Freedom Belle (left); alba simplex (middle) and Shikubu (right).



We hope you have enjoyed looking at some of the special plants which make Ventnor Botanic Garden unique.

There is always something new to see here throughout the year and every visit will bring new botanical surprises.



*Hamamelis japonica pallida* in the Oriental Garden